

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claims 7 and 11-13 and 17-20, and amend claims 8 and 14 as follows:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first filter member is comprising:

a first filter member through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles, said first filter member being made of fibers having a mean fiber diameter of from 0.2 to 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and having a filled density of from 0.1 to 0.5  $\text{g/cm}^3$ , said first filter member having an upstream part and a downstream part, said downstream part having a packing density higher than a packing density of the upstream part; and

a plasma or serum separating membrane for separating plasma or serum from blood, said separating membrane having a porosity of not more than 25% and a mean surface roughness of not more than 100 nm, and being serially connected in a subsequent stage with the first filter member, made of fiber and the mean fiber diameter is from 0.2 to 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and the filled density is from 0.1 to 0.5  $\text{g/cm}^3$ .

9-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The filter apparatus according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 8, wherein a blood accommodation part is provided at an upstream side of the first and second filter members; and an aqueous solution having an osmotic pressure of 200 to 300 mOsm/kg is added to at least a part of the section from the blood accommodation part to the first and the second filter members.

15. (Previously Presented) The filter apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the aqueous solution contains an internal standard substance.

16-20. (Cancelled)

Kindly add new claims 21-25 as follows:

21. (New) The filter apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first filter member through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles has a property of adsorbing fibrinogen contained in blood, plasma or a fibrinogen solution.

22. (New) The filter apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the filter apparatus further comprises a container having an internal space therein; and an anticoagulant component is stored in at least a part of the internal space of the filter apparatus where filter members are accommodated or an upstream side of the part in the internal space.

23. (New) The filter apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the filter apparatus further comprises a container having an internal space therein; and an accelerator for accelerating coagulation of blood is stored in at least a part of the internal space downstream of the filter members in the internal space.

24. (New) A blood testing container including the filter apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a strip of immunochromatographical diagnostic agent to be added to the separated plasma or serum is stored in the blood testing container.

25. (New) The filter apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first filter member is made of polyester-based resin.